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EXAMINER

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the paper(s) filed 11/6/2008.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 2, 4-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holtz et al (US6760916) in view of Gupta et al ('009) (US7111009).** Holtz et al qualifies as prior art under 102(e) and includes a chain of CIP applications to an earliest effective date of 1/14/2000. The parent application 09/634735 filed 8/8/2000 (which is also incorporated by reference in to Holtz et al) has been relied upon by the examiner previously in order to demonstrate full support for the teachings used against the instant claims – and will continue to be applied here. Examiner will be referring to page and line number of the specification of 09/634735 in this Office Action.

4. Regarding claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 12-14, 16, 19, 20, 24, Holtz et al teaches an Internet user browsing a web page in order to select media segments of a show for “on-demand” viewing. After the user selects a plurality of desired media clips in a certain order, the system creates a “bin” playlist defining the collection of desired clips in the specific order. Each clip/segment in the collection represented by the playlist is identified (i.e. referenced by) by time code stamps and identification labels. After the playlist is

complete, the streaming media referenced therein is delivered to the player in the user's browser [page 70 lines 8-23 of 09/634735]. In this manner, a playlist is created at a network source based upon requested user information (clip selection information, clip arrangement information). Holtz et al appears to be silent on whether the user's browser receives the playlist file (i.e. the metadata) in order to accomplish the streaming delivery of the customized sequence of media segments. Holtz et al however explains that a "continuous stream of media segments without multiple interruption" is desired [page 71 lines 14-15] over previous methods which cause the client/browser to buffer each segment separately, causing interruptions between segments [page 71 lines 2-10]. Gupta et al ('009) teaches an interactive web site where users can create/assemble and re-assemble customized playlists for a media presentation [14:21-23, 15:53-59, 16:3-5]. Gupta et al ('009) describes that the collection of media segments associated with the playlist are presented to the user in a continuous fashion with "very little or no noticeable gap between segments" [15:65-16:1]. Gupta et al ('009) accomplishes the seamless user presentation by sending the playlist to the user's browser so that the browser can manage the streaming according to the stored playlist metadata [15:45-53, 16:20-28]:

interface 150 of FIG. 3 provides the list of annotation identifiers being displayed to web browser 153 (or other multimedia presentation application) in the order of their display, including the target identifier and temporal range information. Thus, web browser 153 receives a list of multimedia segments that it is to present to the user in a particular order. Web browser 153 then accesses media server 11 to stream the multimedia segments to client 15 for presentation in that order.

Web browser 153, knowing the duration of each of the segments being provided to client computer 15, forwards additional messages to media server 11 to continue with the provision of the next segment, according to the playlist when appropriate. By managing the delivery of the media segments to client

computer 15 in such a manner, web browser 153 can keep the media segments being provided to the user in a seamless manner.

Further, Gupta et al ('009) teaches that the user may export the playlist (i.e. save the playlist) so that the previously-assembled presentation defined by the exported playlist can be enjoyed by the user (or others if shared) at a later time, without the need to re-browse/re-query/re-assemble the available media segments into a new playlist [15:13-23, 16:36-43]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have employed the techniques of Gupta et al ('009) (send the playlist to the user's browser) in order to achieve the seamless playback of playlisted segments desired by Holtz et al. Doing so delivers a playlist to the browser which then accesses the server(s) having the content and advertising segments so that they may be streamed to the browser under control of the browser. The playlist of Holtz et al is consistent with well accepted definitions of a playlist in that the playlist contains references to content rather than containing copies of the content. In the case of Holtz et al, the references are to requested media clips that are streamed seamlessly to the user's browser/player in a manner as defined by the bin playlist. Advertisements can actually be located elsewhere and still be referenced for inclusion throughout the presentation [page 72 lines 26-27] . The clips themselves are stored on RDP 129 and a script can be used to reference the clips by time stamp in order to retrieve the clips. When a user builds a playlist, a new script file can be created that references time stamps and appropriate time segments are inserted into the new script file. In addition, the processing unit 102 can insert additional codes into the script file to reference other data related to each media clip. These additional codes can are representative of

advertising content [page 76 lines 4-20 of 09/634735]. The show script includes links (i.e. references) to advertisements which are streamed at specified intervals and duration with the video show requested [page 72 lines 20-23]; this provides applicant's claimed indicators that indicate when each advertisement should be played in relation to the media content. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have provided the browser-delivered playlist rendered obvious by Gupta et al ('009) with indications that define the sequence of segments, including the advertising segments so that the presentation including content and targeted advertising may be ultimately presented to the user in the proper sequence. Holtz et al also teaches that a second browser frame can be provided/built such that HTML content associated with the streaming content can be displayed simultaneously adjacent the first frame of streaming content [page 72 lines 11-19]. This auxiliary content in the second frame is taken to be HTML content at least in terms of the text described by Holtz et al and the menu of related data or web sites that a user can select [page 73 lines 25-30, page 74 lines 1-8]. Holtz et al is taken to inherently include directory construction and searching for files which define the parameters of the frames in order to properly render the frames as well as the content that is rendered within them. Regarding the "request at said user computer...including a parameter specifying a position of said streaming advertisements in said streaming content", there are several reasons why this is covered by the combination of Holtz et al and Gupta et al ('009). First, any of the content shown to the user (such as college football, local weather, traffic, stock market, etc.) can be considered to be an "advertisement" because the term advertisement

merely requires an announcement or message delivered to members of the public.

Therefore when a user requests a playlist of certain content clips (the request including parameters regarding the arrangement of the clips), the request can fairly be described as one including specifying a position of content (where the content is also considered as 'advertising'). Second, 09/634735 page 71 lines 30+ describe establishment of a user profile that includes parameters specifying the contents, duration and layout for the media. A request for a playlist according to this profile is taken to be one where the layout (i.e. positioning) is specified. Again, any of the content meets the term 'advertisement'. Further, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have allowed the user to specify his profile preferences (such as layout, duration, etc) for the advertising as well, so that a user can be more in control of his media experience. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have enabled the user to specify whether advertising is presented before, during and/or after the other content clips. Third, Requesting content clips and their playlisted order is taught by Holtz et al. This playlist request results in targeted advertising to be played with the content clips. Therefore by specifying how/where the content clips are to be arranged in the playlist inherently provides a parameter for positioning of the advertising. If the user requests financial news, sports news and then a health story, he may get a financial ad, then a sports ad then a health ad – all of which include positioning as specified as part of the playlist request. Lastly, the proposed system of Holtz et al in view of Gupta et al ('009) includes "indicators" as part of the operable playlist in order to carry out the requested positioning parameters.

Regarding claim 16, the above analysis regarding the requested positioning of the advertising still applies, but it is further pointed out that claim 16 only requires the request to include advertisement “placement” information which is broader than a “position” parameter. Therefore, the claim feature can be met simply by the inclusion (or placement) of advertising responsive to the user request for the media clips.

Regarding claims 2, 5, 10, 11, 15, the auxiliary content synchronized with the streaming content is taken to represent embedded instructions for triggering the HTML rendering of the additional content in the data frame. Holtz et al also describes the use of datacasting at page 76 line 25.

5. Regarding claims 4, 7, 18, Holtz et al teaches that advertisements views are logged [page 74 lines 16-20].

6. Regarding claim 17, the “to identify” and “to be played” phrases are not positively being performed as part of the method language claimed. Nonetheless, both the streaming advertisements of Holtz et al and the auxiliary content in the data frame can be taken to be advertisements which meet the claim language provided.

7. Regarding claims 21, 22, the auxiliary data frame of Holtz et al is taken to change continuously over time and as the streaming media progresses and/or changes.

Therefore it can be said that there are plural commands to trigger changes to the HTML content displayed in the data frame. Any of the HTML content can be taken to meet the broad “default” HTML content. If the HTML content is meant to be shown, it can be said to be the default content.

8. Regarding claim 23, a user request for a custom playlist based on his user profile can be said to be a request including advertisement selection information, especially where the content involved (weather, traffic, stock market, etc) can be considered to be “advertising”; the term advertising merely requires an announcement or message delivered to the public [page 71 lines 28-30, page 72 lines 1-10]. Further still, as the advertisements are also described as being tied to the streaming media content, a media content chosen based on user profile directly affects the associated advertising selected. The user profile information provides advertisement selection information included with the request. Or, the simple manual building of a playlist by a user includes media selection which drives related advertisement selection.

9. Regarding claim 25 - like claim 17, the language further describes what is taken to be an optional limitation. Nonetheless, the switching to ad advertisement during playback of the streaming media content is taken to read on the claim limitation provided.

10. Regarding claim 26, Holtz et al teaches that the streaming selections can be based upon content and/or duration [page 71 lines 29-30, page 76 lines 18-20].

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant continues to request parallel citations for both Holtz and Holtz’s parent (to Snyder). Examiner will continue to decline such a request for the reasons stated previously – most recently on 8/7/2008.

12. Applicant argues that the term “advertising” means much more than examiner has given it. Examiner believes that definitions of advertising are broad enough to merely encompass a “message”. A yawn is an advertisement that someone is tired. A weather reports is an advertisement for upcoming weather.

13. Because applicants arguments are largely a copy of those presented recently and the continue to be unconvincing, examiner’s responses are herein repeated.

14. Applicant argues that Holtz et al fails to deliver a playlist to the client whereby the client accesses the associated media server in order to stream the content to the user. Examiner has provided Gupta et al ('009) for its explicit teachings of delivering a user-customized playlist to the users browser so that the browser can access the references server(s) to stream the content in a manner controlled by the browser.

15. Applicant argues that claim 16 requires an indicator that the ad be played one of: before, during or after the media content is played. Playing an ad at all read on this claim as before, during or after cover any possibilities. Nonetheless, Holtz et al plays ads (i.e. includes an advertising playback indicator/command) at least during media content.

16. Applicant argues each reference singly and states that each cannot/are not capable of supporting 102 rejections. Applicant argues supposes missing elements (a playlist for example) which have been repeatedly addressed in the rejections. Examiner does not believe any claimed feature is “missing”. Applicant then goes on to describe why he would not characterize the references as suitable for a 103 combination, yet there is no particular discussion rebutting the particular obviousness rejection set forth

by examiner – save for the unspecific and sweeping statement that “the rationale as to why one would make the proposed combination is not sufficiently articulated.” In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey D. Carlson whose telephone number is 571-272-6716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Fridays; off alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571)272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3622

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